

Creator of a neutron nightmare

PHYSICIST Samuel T Cohen once described his invention the neutron bomb as "the most sane and moral weapon ever devised". So convinced was he of the advantages of the tactical nuclear weapon that shortly before his death he told an interviewer that "it's the only nuclear weapon in history that makes sense in waging war. When the war is over the world is still intact".

Needless to say it wasn't a view shared by all and the controversial device, which was designed to kill enemy troops with subatomic particles but leave cities and homes relatively untouched, was never used as part of America's tactical nuclear arsenal.

While doubters questioned the usefulness, logic and ethics of killing people and sparing property, dubbing the bomb a "capitalist weapon", Cohen always maintained critics misunderstood or purposely misrepresented his ideas for political, economic or mercenary reasons.

In 1979, 21 years after he had developed the bomb which he said could limit death, destruction and radioactive contamination, Cohen was awarded a Medal of Peace from Pope John Paul II for his attempts to reform modern warfare.

Cohen was born in Brooklyn to Lazarus and Jenny Cohen, Austrian Jews who had migrated to the USA via Britain. When he was four the family moved to Los Angeles where his father worked as a carpenter on

Samuel T Cohen

Nuclear physicist

BORN: JANUARY 25, 1921. DIED: NOVEMBER 28, 2010, AGED 89

movie sets. As a young boy Cohen suffered allergies, eye problems and other ailments, leading his mother to put him on a rigidly controlled diet and encourage him to take daily ice-water showers to toughen him up.

A brilliant student he graduated from UCLA in 1943 with a physics degree and after a stint in the army he joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for advanced training in mathematics and physics.

By 1944 he was part of the Manhattan Project, the codename for the development of the first atomic bomb and worked on Fat Man, the bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945 days after Little Boy destroyed Hiroshima.

He then joined the Research and Development Corporation, a non-profit institution that still helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis in Santa Monica.

Cohen spent most of his career there. He invented the neutron bomb, which has about a tenth the explosive power of other nuclear weapons, in 1958. It was seven years after he visited Seoul which had



Picture: CORBIS

NUCLEAR EXPONENT: Cohen had been a brilliant student

largely been destroyed in the Korean War. In his 2000 memoir *Shame: Confessions Of The Father Of The Neutron Bomb* he wrote: "If we are going to go on fighting these damned fool wars in the future, shelling and bombing cities to smithereens and wrecking the lives of their inhabitants might there be some kind of nuclear weapon that could avoid all this?"

Despite such arguments Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Carter all rejected the bomb, believing that it

could upset the existing balance of power and test-ban moratoriums.

In 1981 President Reagan ordered 700 neutron warheads to be developed to oppose Soviet tank forces in Europe but they were later dismantled in the face of widespread protests and the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

In addition to having a number of books published Cohen continued to defend the weapon as both humane and practical throughout his life.

Tony Edwards

Manager of Deep Purple and Toyah Wilcox

BORN: JUNE 30, 1932. DIED: NOVEMBER 11, 2010, AGED 78

WORKING for the family fashion business was never going to be enough for Tony Edwards.

He was asked to manage a band called Roundabout, later to become Deep Purple. Between 1967 and 1976, when he led the group to worldwide success, Edwards acted as their mentor, financier and peacemaker.

Born Maurice Anthony Edwards he grew up in London and Brighton and was a graduate of the London School of Economics. He was asked to manage a band Chris Curtis, the drummer and vocalist with the Searchers, was putting together.

It would comprise three permanent members (Curtis, Ritchie Blackmore and Jon Lord) and a host of interchangeable musicians.

Within a year Curtis had been dumped and Blackmore and Lord were joined by Ian Paice, Rod Evans and Nick Simper.

By the time the second and third line-ups were under way Deep Purple were enjoying a run of multi-million selling



ROCK SUPREMO: Purple's Edwards

albums such as *Machine Head*, *Fireball* and their live *Made In Japan* record.

In 1969 the Daily Express sponsored the band's unforgettable performance of *Concerto For Group And Orchestra* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Albert Hall.

The disharmony among the group and the ever-changing line-up made Edwards' job impossible at times and he eventually moved on in 1976, putting his formidable talents into launching little known punk singer Toyah Wilcox.

Always keen to make the most of a business opportunity, in 1984 he rush-released an album of the music Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean had skated to at the Winter Olympics where they won gold.

Later he set up First Night Records, devoted to cast recordings of musicals such as *Les Misérables* and *Sister Act*.

Chaim 'Harry' Nagelstein

Survivor of the Holocaust

BORN: MARCH 10, 1928. DIED: NOVEMBER 24, 2010, AGED 82

A PRISONER of Majdanek, Auschwitz and Ebensee concentration camps, the Poland-born builder survived the Holocaust only because the Germans needed him to help build their factories and barracks. Apart from one sister Manya the rest of his family were all murdered.

After the war Nagelstein was offered a post in the British Eighth Army, which he quickly took. He later lived in Yorkshire and then moved to Newcastle upon Tyne, where he met and married his wife Cecilia in 1951. He was the last Auschwitz survivor in the North-East of England.

In 1982 Nagelstein was finally reunited with Manya who was living in America.

Empire was a millstone for film-maker

Irvin Kershner

Respected Hollywood director

BORN: APRIL 29, 1923. DIED: NOVEMBER 27, 2010, AGED 87

HE may have been responsible for directing big-name movies such as *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) but Irvin Kershner was not a big name.

He maintained that despite the opportunities the *Star Wars* sequel brought him (it was the biggest-grossing film of 1980) he never enjoyed making his other blockbusters such as *Robocop 2* and the "unofficial" 007 vehicle *Never Say Never Again*.

"My career is a disaster," he once told a group of students. "After *Empire* I got to make big films that I didn't care about and then I got too old."

Isadore Kershner was born in Philadelphia to Jewish immigrant parents who were originally from Ukraine. His first foray into the movie business came when he worked as a documentary maker for



Picture: PHOTOFEST

MAN AND MACHINE: Kershner and C-3PO on the *Empire* set

the United States Information Service in Iran, Greece and Turkey.

As his reputation grew Kershner worked with a number of star acts during the Sixties and Seventies including Sean Connery in *A Fine Madness*, George C Scott in *The Flim-Flam Man* and Barbra Streisand in *Up The Sandbox*. He would later join forces with Connery again in 1983 when he made *Never Say Never Again*, the Scottish actor's last outing as Bond.

It was when his former student George Lucas asked him to direct

the sequel to the hugely successful *Star Wars* film that everything changed for Kershner. Although he had his reservations he eventually threw himself wholeheartedly into the three-year project.

Paying tribute to the man he considered his mentor Lucas said this week: "I knew one thing for sure, I didn't want to direct the second movie myself. I needed someone I could trust, someone I really admired and whose work had maturity and humour."

"That was Kersh all over."